Episode 21: Opening the Gate

* Rejected Cover Idea

THE MOOD DIDN'T FIT
WITH THE WORLD.

ALL RIGHT, NEXT! YOU!

THERE'S A RECORD OF IT.

AFTER THE MOPPING UP OPERATION SIX DAYS AGO, SIR.

WHEN WAS THE SHAFT LAST SWITCHED OUT?

V

V

KRISTA LENZ, 41ST SQUAD.

SO YOU CAN GET PUNISHED FOR KILLING TITANS, HUH?

YEAH, IT **IS** WEIRD, BUT THEY WERE VALUABLE TEST SUBJECTS.

Manga Dire.to

YEAH... WE'RE ALL STILL WORN OUT FROM THE MOP-UP AFTER THE BATTLE...

AND NOW THEY'RE LOOKING FOR THE CULPRITS HERE... AS IF A TRAINEE COULD'VE DONE IT!

WHOEVER DID IT MAY HAVE SATISFIED THEIR THIRST FOR REVENGE, BUT IT'S A BLOW TO THE HUMAN RACE.

BUT THIS PRACTICALLY HELPS THE TITANS...

...YEAH.

YOU CAN'T BLAME SOMEONE FOR HATING TITANS.

BEFORE I SAW MY FIRST TITAN, I REALLY WANTED TO JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS...

YOU LOSE YOUR ABILITY TO THINK.

...!

...SO I KINDA GET WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM.

I'M AN IDIOT ...

...

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE TO CHOOSE A BRANCH TODAY...

...BUT NOW... I NEVER WANNA SEE ANOTHER TITAN AS LONG AS I LIVE.

WHAT ?! JEAN SAID THAT ?

DAMN IT... EVEN JEAN SAID HE'S GONNA JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS...

HE SAYS HE'S GONNA JOIN THE CORPS.

HEY... ANNIE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOU'RE GOING WITH THE MP BRIGADE, RIGHT...?

...I SEE.

MY MIND'S ALREADY MADE UP.

...I DON'T THINK ANY-THING.

Manga Mx Fresto

...

LOOK ...

YOU THINK I SHOULD GO FOR THE MPS, TOO?

HEY... ANNIE ...

...

OF COURSE NOT!

... WHAT ?!

... WOULD YOU?

IF SOME-BODY TOLD YOU TO DIE...

HM ...?

HOW ABOUT YOU, ARMIN?

THEN YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

Manga Fire

SO YOU'VE DE-CID-ED...

YEAH.

...

I SEE ...

I THINK THERE ARE TIMES PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE... EVEN IF I DON'T LIKE IT.

IF I COULD UNDERSTAND **WHY** I HAD TO DIE...

ME ...

SERI-OUSLY ...? ARMIN, YOU TOO?

TH-THANKS ...

...BUT YOU'VE GOT SPIRIT.

YOU'RE A WEAK-LING...

WHA?

...

...

PRETTY NICE.

ANNIE

...

YOU'RE ACTU-ALLY...

...

...

NO.

...

!

I JUST ...

AND I BET YOU HAVE A REASON FOR JOINING THE MILITARY POLICE.

I MEAN, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT US TO JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS...

...WANT TO SAVE MYSELF.

WHO THE HELL DID IT, THEN ...?

SO IN THE END, I GUESS THEY DIDN'T FIND ANY SOLDIERS WHO USED VERTICAL MANEUVERING GEAR WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.

I WONDER HOW MANY NEWBIES ARE GONNA JOIN THE CORPS ON A WHIM...

BEATS ME... TO BE HONEST, I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TODAY'S RECRUIT SOLICITATION CEREMONY.

NO ...

...

THERE IS.

HEY, EREN. IS THERE ANYONE FROM YOUR TRAINING GROUP WHO WANTS TO JOIN UP?

MangaFire.to

...
THERE WAS.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY FEEL NOW.

CHFF

JEAN...

MangaFire.to

WHAT? OF COURSE I DON'T LIKE IT. THE CORPS, I MEAN.

I MEAN... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SCARED...

JEAN, WHAT MADE YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS?

...

I MAY'VE CHOSEN THE SURVEY CORPS, BUT NOT 'CAUSE I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE TITANS.

HM? ...THEN WHY ARE YOU...

I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO DIE LIKE EREN. DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH HIM.

LISTEN. SERI-OUSLY ...

AND I'M NOT GOING TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "SKILLED SOLDIERS HAVE A DUTY TO JOIN THE CORPS."

AND...

TRAINEES, FALL IN! FACE THE STAGE!

THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF JOB YOU CAN DO WITHOUT REALLY CHOOSING IT YOURSELF.

NOBODY CONVINCED ME TO PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE.

MangaFire.to

TODAY, YOU CHOOSE WHICH DIVISION TO JOIN. THE REASON I'M UP HERE IS TO INVITE YOU TO BECOME A PART OF THE SURVEY CORPS.

I AM SURVEY CORPS COMMANDER ERWIN SMITH.

THE KING HAS GRANTED ME AUTHORITY OVER ALL SURVEY CORPS ACTIVITY.

I'M SURE NOTHING ELSE IN YOUR LIVES CAME CLOSE TO IT. THOUGH YOU'RE TRAINEES, YOU EXPERIENCED SACRIFICE.

BUT I SHOULD WARN YOU. IN THE RECENT TITAN ATTACK, EVERYONE HERE EXPERIENCED WHAT THE AVERAGE EXCURSION OUTSIDE IS LIKE.

...YOUR OWN LIMITS, AND THE TERROR OF THE TITANS.

AS A RESULT, I'M SURE YOU CAME TO KNOW...

NEVER-THE-LESS...

BY NOW, EVERYONE IS AWARE OF...

...THE HUMAN RACE HAS ADVANCED TOWARDS VICTORY LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

WHILE IT'S TRUE WE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN THIS ATTACK...

...AND WE HAVE OBTAINED A PATH TO UNDER-STANDING THE TRUE NATURE OF THE TITANS.

...THE EXISTENCE OF EREN YEAGER.

THROUGH HIS ACTIONS AND ALL OF YOURS, THE TITAN INCURSION WAS HALTED...

...BUT BELIEVE ME, HE'S PROVEN HIMSELF AS AN ALLY WHO'S WILLING TO LAY HIS LIFE ON THE LINE.

I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU MUCH HERE REGARDING EREN...

AND WE ALSO KNOW THAT IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS OLD HOUSE IN SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT...

...THERE ARE ANSWERS ABOUT THE TITANS THAT EVEN HE DOESN'T HAVE.

MangaFire.to

...I BELIEVE WE'LL FIND CLUES THAT MAY FREE US FROM A CENTURY OF DOMINATION BY THE TITANS.

IF WE CAN JUST GET TO THAT BASEMENT...

...BUT MAKING THAT INFORMATION PUBLIC...?

I KNOW THEY WANT TO RECRUIT SOL-DIERS...

MURMUR

...

HIS BASE-MENT ...?

MURMUR

MURMUR

IF WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF FINDING OUT WHAT THE TITANS REALLY ARE, THEN THE SITUATION MUST NOT BE THAT BAD!!

MURMUR

MURMUR

ARE WE ALREADY THAT CLOSE ...?

HE MUST HAVE AN AGENDA...

WAIT...

...

AND YET ...

MURMUR MURMUR

HM?

... LOOKING AT?

WHAT'S THE COM-MAND-ER ...

...WE FIRST NEED TO TAKE BACK WALL MARIA.

...IF WE ARE TO PERFORM A FULL INVESTIGA-TION OF THAT BASEMENT ROOM IN SHIGANSHINA...

THE PATH THAT TOOK ONE OF OUR BATTALIONS FOUR YEARS TO CLEAR IS COMPLETELY LOST.

...BUT NOW THAT WE CAN NO LONGER USE THE GATE IN TROST DISTRICT, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE THE LONG WAY AROUND, FROM EASTERN KARANES DISTRICT.

IN OTHER WORDS, OUR AIM IS THE SAME...

THAT'S 90% IN FOUR YEARS.

DURING THOSE FOUR YEARS, OVER 90% OF THE SURVEY CORPS SOLDIERS DIED.

...WOULD MEAN FIVE TIMES THE CASUALTIES AND 20 YEARS OF WORK. THOSE AREN'T REALISTIC FIGURES.

EVEN IN THE BEST CASE, SENDING ANOTHER BATTALION TO WALL MARIA...

MangaFire.to

SINCE MANY ARE KILLED EVERY TIME WE GO OUT, WE SUFFER FROM A CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL.

THE SURVEY CORPS IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR TALENTED PEOPLE.

A SUPPLY ROUTE NEEDS TO BE PUT IN PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THOSE OF YOU WHO JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN EXPEDITION BEYOND THE WALL ONE MONTH FROM NOW.

I WON'T HIDE IT.

BUT THOSE WHO DO GET THROUGH IT GO ON TO BECOME SUPERIOR SOLDIERS WITH A HIGH SURVIVAL RATE.

I BELIEVE THE MORTALITY RATE FOR NEW RECRUITS GOING ON THEIR FIRST JOURNEY OUTSIDE IS ABOUT 50%.

MangaFire.to

NOW YOU KNOW THE DISMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE STILL WILLING TO PUT YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE, REMAIN HERE.

ASK YOURSELVES IF YOU REALLY HAVE IT IN YOU TO SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE FOR HUMANITY.

LET ME REITERATE... THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WHO STAY HERE AND ENTER THE SURVEY CORPS WILL LIKELY DIE.

MangaFire.to

THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO JOIN THE OTHER DIVISIONS ARE DISMISSED.

THAT'S ALL.

CHFF CHFF

THE TRAINEES THAT ARE LEFT MUST FEEL LIKE THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER.

COM-MANDER, DID YOU HAVE TO BE THAT INTIMIDAT-ING?

CHFF

CHFF

CHFF

CHFF

I'M BEGGING YOU HERE.

CHFF

SHIT...

...HATE MYSELF MORE THAN I ALREADY DO.

CHFF

CHFF

DON'T MAKE ME...

TH-THUMP

IF I DON'T GET AWAY FROM HERE NOW... I'LL HAVE TO...

...FACE THEM AGAIN...

MURMUR

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

IF I BECAME AN MP...

...EVERY-ONE IN THE VILLAGE WOULD RESPECT ME.

...MOM WOULD BE SO HAPPY...

THUMP

CHFF

CHFF

I LEFT THE VILLAGE TO BECOME A MILITARY POLICE OFFICER...

THAT'S RIGHT...

THUMP

WE'VE SEEN IT...

WE ALREADY KNOW...

THUMP

...EAT PEOPLE...

WE'VE SEEN HOW TITANS...

THUMP

Manga Rock.to

FWOOOOOOOOOO

...WERE TOLD TO DIE, COULD YOU DO IT?

IF YOU ...

MangaFire.to

FWWOOOOOOOOOO

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

EVERY-ONE... YOU LOOK GOOD.

I SEE ...

DEVOTE YOUR HEARTS TO THE CAUSE!

THIS IS MY REAL SALUTE!

VERY WELL! I WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE SURVEY CORPS!

YES, SIR!!

EV-
ERY-
ONE...

...

THE SURVEY CORPS, OF ALL THINGS ...

THIS IS THE WORST. DAMN IT...

AHHH ... SHIT ...

I WANNA GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE...

...UNH ... I HATE THIS...

I'M SCAR-ED...

I JUST DON'T CARE ANY-MORE...

AHH ...

MangaFire.to

SHIVER

ブルル

SHIVER

ブルル

IF YOU'RE GONNA CRY HERE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL QUIT.

...

...

CHFF CHFF

I SEE 21 MEMBERS IN THE 104TH SURVEY CORPS WHO HAVE GIVEN THE SALUTE.

YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT RESPECT.

YOU HAVE WITHSTOOD YOUR FEAR WELL... YOU'RE ALL BRAVE SOLDIERS.

ONE MONTH LATER

KARANES DISTRICT

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

MangaFire.to

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WE LED THE NEAREST TITANS SOME DISTANCE AWAY!!
THIRTY SECONDS TO GATE OPENING!!
ALMOST READY!
COM-MAN-DER !!

SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED !!

THIS IS IT!! NOW THE HUMAN RACE TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD!!

RUMBLE

AD-VANCE !!

LAUNCH THE 57TH EXPEDITION OUTSIDE THE WALL!

OPEN THE GATE!!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

CLOP CLOP CLOP !! CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

10-METER* CLASS TITAN APPROACHING FROM THE LEFT!!

* ABOUT 33 FEET.

WHUD

WHUD

DEFEND THE LINE TO THE DEATH!!

WHUD

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

SHIT! ONE GOT PAST!

DON'T FLINCH!! TRUST IN THE SUPPORT TEAM AND KEEP GOING!!

AAAAAA

HNH!!

ADVANCE!!

ADVANCE!!

GLOP

GLOP

GLOP

GLOP

GLOP

GLOP

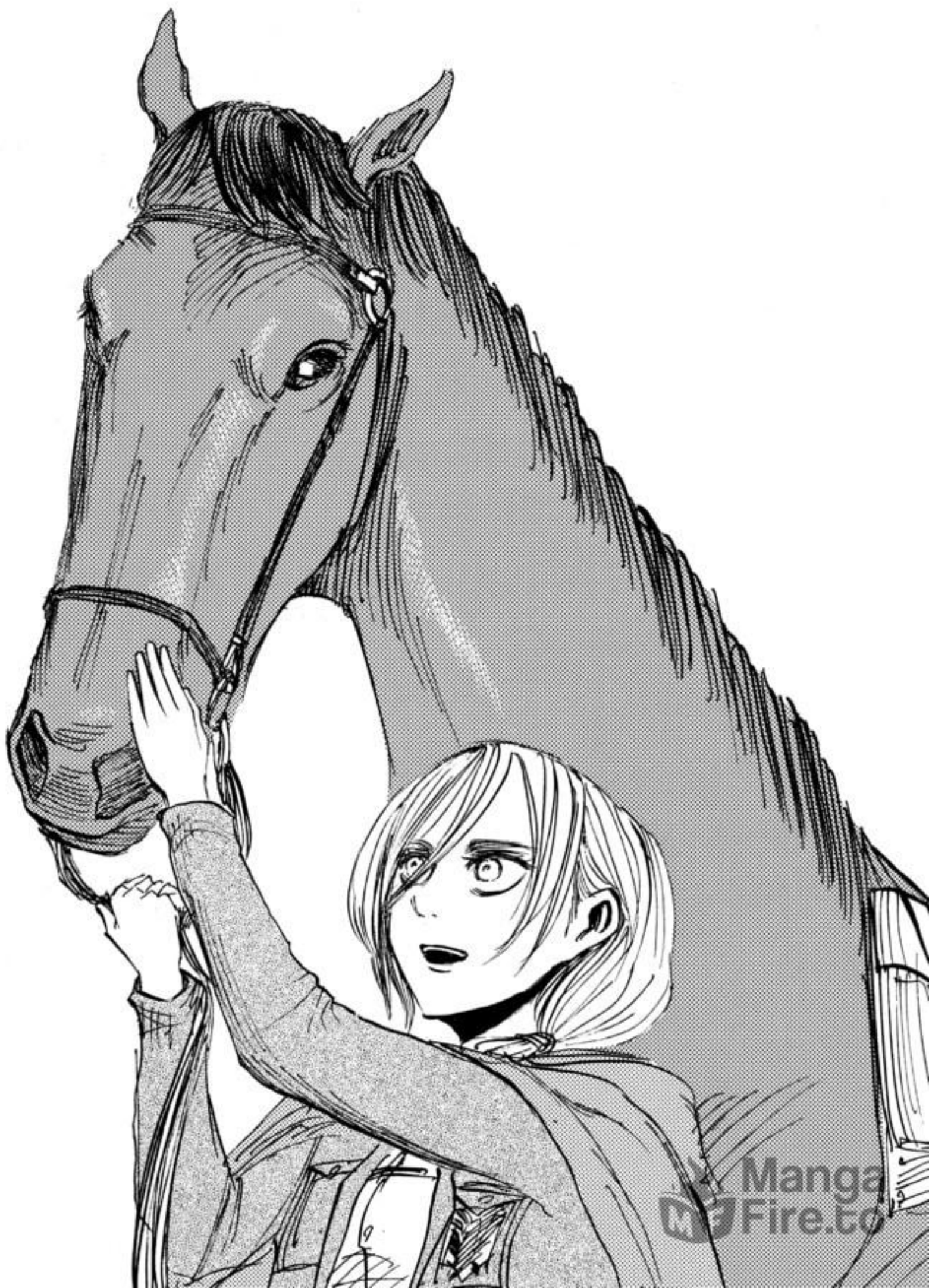
GLOP

Manga Direto

Current Publicly Available Information

10. Survey Corps Horses

THE STABLE HORSES USED BY THE SURVEY CORPS ARE SELECTIVELY BRED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 160 CM (5 FEET 3 INCHES) TALL AND 450-500 KG (990-1,100 LBS). THEY CAN GET BY ON A SIMPLE DIET AND TRAVEL FOR MANY HOURS WITHOUT COMPLAINING. THESE HORSES HAVE A MILD TEMPERAMENT AND RARELY PANIC, EVEN WHEN CONFRONTED WITH TITANS. THEIR TOP SPEED IS BETWEEN 75-80 KPH (46-50 MPH), AND THEY CAN MAINTAIN A SWIFT 35 KPH (22 MPH) GALLOP. THE HORSES ARE TENACIOUS, ABLE TO MAINTAIN A FINE SPEED OF 20 KPH (12 MPH) EVEN WHEN PULLING A CARRIAGE. THEY AREN'T THE TITANS' DIRECT GOAL AND ARE ABLE TO OUTRUN THE TITANS ON FOOT, MAKING THEM THE ONLY METHOD OF ESCAPE. THESE HORSES ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE. IN MONETARY TERMS, ONE IS WORTH AN AVERAGE PERSON'S LIFETIME INCOME. (WITH THANKS TO UKYŌ KODACHI AND KIYOMUNE MIWA)



MangaFire.to